United Nations A/S-23/12

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 June 2000
English
Original: Spanish

Twenty-third special session

Letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the joint declaration by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and Colombia in the context of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (see annex).

The Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and Colombia should like to request that you have said joint declaration issued as a document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and circulated to delegations.

(*Signed*) Alfonso **Valdivieso**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

00-52026 (E) 110700 110700

Annex to the letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela: joint declaration

In the context of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" our delegations have shared a regional vision of the progress made, challenges met, lessons learned and good practices developed in the first five years of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The regional consensuses outlined in the Santiago and Lima documents have shaped and strengthened the commitment undertaken by our respective Governments to move ahead with the review process which is the subject of this special session. Having spent the best part of one year preparing for this session it has become evident that there are a wide variety of positions which make up a complex context for the achievement of consensual visions concerning the items contained in the Beijing Platform for Action.

Our region, united by a common experience and a determination to see to it that all women, teenage girls and girl children are able to exercise their human rights, is moving ahead with the implementation of the Platform for Action; each country is incorporating the Platform into its own, independently elaborated development policies. We have placed special emphasis on the right to health, participation and development in a framework of gender equality and equity and non-violence.

We reiterate our commitment to the establishment of conditions conducive to a fuller life for women in the exercise of their rights, to which, as citizens of the world, they are entitled; this will also contribute to a more humane, tolerant, wholesome, productive and happy society made up of men and women and to the sustainable development of our countries.

New York, 9 June 2000